

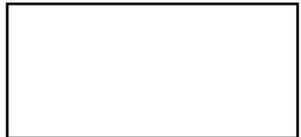
COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Gerrany (Russian Zone)

DATE-DISTR. 8 July 1948

SUBJECT Uranium Mining in the Jachymov Area

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1. The Russians are now in complete control of the Jachymov mines. The whole area up to 50 km. around the city is heavily guarded, and the Russians have roadblocks on all roads, especially the Karlovy Vary Highway. Thermal establishments have either closed down or are being used for lodging.
2. The Russians have considerably stepped up exploitation since January, and Czech scientists fear that the mines will be exhausted very soon. No radium from Jachymov is being allotted to Czech research institutes or hospitals. The Czechs have to import from Belgium.
3. Since workers develop an occupational disease working in the mines, Czech protective legislation permitted them to work only very short hours and five years at the most. The Russians work very long shifts now; hence, very few Czech workers are willing to sign up. Accordingly, people purged after the coup are sent to the mine. Dr. Fragner, owner of a large pharmaceutical concern, is such a person slated for this punishment. He is accused of "bourgeois" leanings, because he sent his daughters to school in Switzerland. Since February there has been a great influx of workers from the Soviet Union. These workers are brought in through the Soviet Zone of Gerrany and across the frontier from Annaberg, Saxony, so as to avoid Prague. They are prevented from contacting the local population.
4. None of the ore is being processed in Czechoslovakia. All ore is sent to Russian in sealed ex-Gerran Reichsbahn cars and some Russian cars. The trains, which are run by Russian personnel, go via Schmiedeberg and Dresden. The Jachymov railroad station is under Russian management. The Russians have been using Karlovy Vary airport, but it is rumored that a new airport is under construction in Jachymov.
5. Procedures and equipment have not changed Czech administration. The Germans made minor adjustments but used Czech equipment. Spare parts still come from Czechoslovakia.

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6. No Czech scientist is at present engaged in research in nuclear physics.
7. No installations for research in atomic energy exist in Czechoslovakia.
8. The idea of creating a chair for nuclear physics has been abandoned, since no funds were allotted for equipment.


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